



The Voluntary Treatment Option Program

Fact Sheet

The Department of State, Division of Professional Regulation and the participating regulatory boards and commissions have implemented a professional assistance program for licensees. The Voluntary Treatment Option (VTO) program was created by the Delaware General Assembly in 1998. The purpose of this program is to help licensees, who are experiencing difficulties with chemical dependency or impairment, to confidentially access professional help while maintaining their professional status and protecting the public's safety.

Licensees may enter the VTO program by self-referral or by a third party written referral. A licensee may access the program by completing an application and submitting it to the division's representative. Upon receipt of a completed application by the licensee, a division representative and a designated board member of the licensee's profession will meet with the licensee to discuss program requirements and determine program eligibility. It is important to note that licensees are eligible for the VTO program if they have not committed any offense(s), other than the status of being chemically dependent or impaired that would be grounds for discipline under applicable board laws governing the regulated profession.

If the licensee is eligible for the program, a drug and alcohol assessment must be completed within 30 days from the division's notification. Substance abuse assessments will be conducted by approved providers who have been identified by the division, using the Addiction Severity Index. These approved providers are located in all three counties. Assessment results and the recommended level of care, as determined by the American Society of Addiction Medicine Patient Placement Criteria will be reported to the division representative within 24 hours. An approved forensic testing lab that uses National Institute Drug Abuse (NIDA) cut off levels is used to conduct urine screening.

Upon receipt of the licensee's assessment, the designated division and board representatives will review the information, and the licensee will access treatment at the appropriate level of care with a provider who is different than the provider that completed the assessment. Depending on the level of care and the licensee's profession, practice restrictions may be imposed as a measure to protect the public and increase the licensee's success in treatment. Successful completion of treatment will ensure that all information remains confidential. All costs associated with assessment and treatment is the responsibility of the licensee.

Below are the professions that are participating in the Voluntary Treatment Option Program:

Board of Accountancy
Board of Landscape Architecture
Board of Architects
Board of Chiropractic
Board of Cosmetology and Barbering
Board of Dental Examiners
Committee on Dietetics/Nutrition
Board of Electrical Examiners
Board of Funeral Services
Board of Plumbing Examiners
Board of Nursing
Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators
Board of Massage and Bodywork
Board of Occupational Therapy
Board of Examiners in Optometry
Board of Examining Physical Therapists
Board of Podiatry
Board of Registration for Professional Land Surveyors
Council on Real Estate Appraisers
Real Estate Commission
Board of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Professionals
Board of Examiners of Psychologists
Board of Examiners of Speech/Language Pathologists, Audiologists and Hearing Aid
Dispensers
Board of Clinical Social Work Examiners
Board of Veterinary Medicine